

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A “partial refresh command” is used to refresh a fraction of the banks in a multi-bank DRAM. In a first implementation the command refreshes one half of the banks. In a second implementation the command refreshes one quarter of the banks. The power drawn by the upper  
5 or lower bank refresh on the eight bank DRAM is the same as the power drawn by an “all bank” refresh on a four bank DRAM, without requiring the refresh period to be extended.